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# COMIC SHOP NEWS™



**BEFORE WATCHMEN**



## This Summer, Everyone Watches the Watchmen!

It was more than twenty-five years ago that Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons made history with the debut of *Watchmen*. The twelve-part limited series made history when it became one of comics' first collected editions—and it has remained continually in print ever since then, setting graphic novel sales records over the subsequent quarter-century.

Originally envisioned as an original series starring the classic Charlton heroes Captain Atom, Peacemaker, the Blue Beetle, the Question, and others, the book transformed into a complex tale of the Comedian, Rorschach, Ozymandias, Nite Owl, Dr. Manhattan, and the Silk Spectre.

And that's where the tale began and ended (more or less). Until this summer.

That's when DC Entertainment plans to publish all-new stories expanding on the acclaimed *Watchmen* universe. While Alan Moore declined to involve himself in any continuation of *Watchmen* (Moore has been at odds with DC over the rights to the original series; while he agrees that he signed a contract giving the rights to DC as long as the series remained in print, Moore says that he never envisioned it remaining perpetually in print and therefore assumed the rights would return to him at some point in the near future), DC has enlisted an amazing array of top talents to produce seven interconnected prequel mini-series that build on the foundation of the original *Watchmen*, the bestselling graphic novel of all time. The seven books will appear under the banner *Before Watchmen*.

"It's our responsibility as publishers to find new ways to keep all of our characters relevant," DC Entertainment Co-Publishers Dan DiDio and Jim Lee said. "After twenty five years, the Watchmen are classic characters whose time has come for new stories to be told. We sought out the best writers and artists in the industry to build on the complex mythology of the original."

The books that comprise *Before Watchmen* include:

- *Rorschach*, a four-issue miniseries by Brian Azzarello & Lee Bermejo.
- *Minutemen*, a six-issue miniseries written and illustrated by Darwyn Cooke.
- *Comedian*, a six-issue miniseries by Brian Azzarello & J.G. Jones.
- *Dr. Manhattan*, a four-issue miniseries by J. Michael Straczynski & Adam Hughes.
- *Nite Owl*, a four-issue miniseries by J. Michael Straczynski, Andy Kubert, & Joe Kubert.
- *Ozymandias*, a six-issue miniseries by Len Wein & Jae Lee.
- *Silk Spectre*, a four-issue miniseries by Darwyn Cooke & Amanda Conner.

Each week, a new issue will be released, including both the lead story and a two-page backup tale called *Curse of the Crimson Corsair*, written by original *Watchmen* editor Len Wein and illustrated by original series colorist John Higgins.

There will also be a single issue, *Before Watchmen: Epilogue*, featuring the work of various writers and artists, and a *Crimson Corsair* story by Wein & Higgins.

"Comic books are perhaps the largest and longest running form of collaborative fiction," said DiDio and Lee. "Collaborative storytelling is what keeps these fictional universes current and relevant."

*Watchmen* co-creator and artist Dave Gibbons has fully endorsed the *Before Watchmen* project. "The original series of *Watchmen* is the complete story that Alan Moore and I wanted to tell. However, I appreciate DC's reasons for this initiative and the wish of the artists and writers involved to pay tribute to our work. May these new additions have the success they desire," Gibbons said.

(Moore himself has spoken negatively about others presenting new tales of the *Watchmen* characters, explaining his point of view with the analogy, "As far as I know, there aren't that many sequels—or prequels—to *Moby Dick*." That, of course, ignores the fact that Philip Jose Farmer did indeed write a science fictional sequel, *Wind*

*Whales of Ishmael*, while Ray Bradbury wrote a powerful novel *Leviathan* that is highly derivative of *Moby Dick*—and Bradbury also wrote the script to the Gregory Peck film version of the Melville novel, which by necessity compresses and somewhat alters the source material. *Moby Dick* remains unharmed and unsullied by any of these other works, and can still be enjoyed by readers who have no interest in the other works.)

On Facebook, J. Michael Straczynski stressed that Moore offered the opportunity to write these stories. "If at any point in the last 25 years, Alan had said, 'you know, there's a *Watchmen* story I'd like to tell,' there's no question that DC would have given him both the freedom to tell that story and a check big enough to dim the lights at their offices for a week," JMS wrote. "And there were frequent overtures for him to do just that. In 2005, DC actually offered to give him ownership of the characters if he'd come back to do more stories with them."

"They wanted his involvement, solicited his involvement, would have been thrilled at his involvement. He declined at every point. Fair enough. It's his choice, and it's his right to make it."

Straczynski also addressed the assertion by some that these were one-off characters, never intended to be used again. "A really good point whose only problem is that it's not actually true," JMS explained. "That was certainly never DC's perception of the characters, and Alan himself floated an idea about doing a *Minutemen* prequel back in 1985."

"Alan didn't walk away from *Watchmen* for artistic reasons, he walked away over contract language regarding ownership issues. It was a contract dispute. In time that morphed into something else, but that was not what happened at the time."

(It's also worth pointing out that additional *Watchmen* material has already appeared in Mayfair's *DC Roleplaying Game* of the 1980s; Moore reportedly offered a great deal of advice in the preparation of gamebooks that did indeed present prequel events to *Watchmen*.)

Straczynski also addressed the almost worshipful attitude that the *Watchmen* characters are sacred, so no one else should ever use them. "Alan has spent most of the last decade writing some very, very good stories about characters created by other writers, including Alice (from *Wonderland*), Dorothy (from *Oz*), Wendy (from *Peter Pan*), as well as Captain Nemo, the Invisible Man, Jekyll and Hyde, and Professor Moriarty. I think one loses a little of the moral high ground to say, 'I can write characters created by Jules Verne, HG Wells, Robert Louis Stevenson, Arthur



Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Conan Doyle, and Frank Baum, but it's wrong for anyone else to write my characters..."

Straczynski spoke to the premise that these prequels would dilute the legacy of the original *Watchmen*. "Can't happen. The book is the book. It will always be up on the shelf. You can read it alone, or after the prequels, or before...it doesn't change a word of it. The original book has twenty five years of legacy standing behind it. It's not that fragile. It's a work of art, and art endures."

And finally, Straczynski explained that "when I met with the others in New York to discuss these books, I was in awe of the assembled talent. These were, and are, some of the brightest lights in the comic business. (And me, holding up the rear.) Listening to Brian A, I frankly thought I should be sitting at the children's table, not here. And beside me was Len Wein, who was involved with the original *Watchmen* books. Amazing."

"I wish you could've been there. I wish you could've seen the passion, the care, the creativity in their eyes and in their voices. There was no talk of money, or of deals, it was all about digging into characters for whom we all shared a profound reverence and appreciation. No detail was too small to delve into. What really happened to this character, who died or disappeared? Why did this other character dissolve into madness and alcohol? Who the hell was the Twilight Lady? There was an excitement and a dedication to preserve the quality of the characters that I wish you could have been present to witness firsthand."

"It Was. Awesome."

"...I've always viewed things from a perspective of, 'Is this going to be worth somebody's hard earned cash?' I won't speak of my stuff, because the specter of enlightened self-interest raises its head...but when I think of what Brian and Darwyn and the others are doing with their books, the stories they've chosen to tell, and the reaction I think these stories will meet, the quality of the art and the storytelling...for me, as a fan, the answer is an enthusiastic 'hell, yes.'"

"The books will speak for themselves."

Before *Watchmen* begins in June—and that promises to make the summer of 2012 one that comics fans will be talking about for years to come!

by Cliff Biggers

## Zombies 'n' Zoology

For decades, we've seen the grim results of confrontations between zombies and human beings—but Rob Anderson & Dafu Yu reveal that the walking dead can be just as troublesome for other members of the animal kingdom!

The confrontation between animal and zombie is the focal point of *Rex, Zombie Killer*, which writer/creator Rob Anderson describes as "kind of like *The Walking Dead* meets *Homeward Bound*, if either of those stories had a gorilla with a baseball bat. In a nutshell, it's about a hyper-intelligent Golden Retriever and a small pack of animals trying to make a cross-country journey after a zombie apocalypse."

In most zombie stories, the zombies have no interest in anything that isn't human (well, Frank Cho's cows notwithstanding). Is that the case in *Rex, Zombie Killer* as well—that is, are the zombies exclusively anthrovores, or will they chow down on canine or simian snacks if that's all that's

available? "In the world of *Rex, Zombie Killer*, the 'rotters' (as the animals refer to them) are in search of any living beings, whether they're human or animal," Anderson explained. "And as an added twist, animals can become zombies in this world, which presents a real problem for dogs, whose best weapon is...biting. Brutus the Pit Bull, in particular, is frustrated by that—and his frustration is bound to get him into trouble."

So just how smart is Rex, anyway? Do he and his motley crew have the brains to avoid becoming a zombie snack? "Rex is so smart he makes Lassie look slow!" Anderson joked. "We see a number of hints in the first issue that he may be very smart—unnaturally smart, in fact—and just how smart he is will be revealed over time."

In terms of intelligence, Kenji the gorilla would be next. He was raised in the relative safety and comfort of a language institute where he was being taught sign-language, so he's very bright, but a bit overwhelmed by his new circumstances.



"Brutus the Pit Bull has average dog intelligence, and Snowball is an average cat (meaning he's way smarter than most humans realize—ha!). Buttercup the silly Corgi mix might be at the bottom of the totem pole on intelligence, size, and strength—but as we'll see in the first issue, she more than makes up for it in heart!"

What inspired a tale of animals versus zombies? "The book was inspired by all the things I love most in the world: animals, in particular (especially dogs and cats), and I'm a huge zombie fan as well, from comics like *The Walking Dead* to audio dramas like *We're Alive*. I also love animal stories in all mediums—from *We3* and *Beasts of Burden* in comics, to novels like *The Incredible Journey* and *Watership Down*."

"Basically, I'm writing the book I'd want to read, and I've had the idea, and been work-

ing on it in some form since around 2008 or so. But it really came together when I workshopped it last year in one of Andy Schmidt's writing classes..."

Julius Schwartz was reported to have said in the early Silver Age days that the best way to boost sales was to put a gorilla on the cover; the second-best way, use a purple cover. Rex has a purple cover and a gorilla—are they following Julie's advice, or is this purely coincidence? "Well, the gorilla is on the cover because I am one of those fans who buys a comic that features a gorilla. That is, it has nothing to do with sales—it has to do with me loving freaking gorillas!" Anderson said with a laugh. "The wallpaper on my iPhone is the cover to *From Beyond the Unknown* #23—the Nick Cardy cover where the gorilla with a gun is stealing library books in order to rule the world. Best. Cover. Ever. That's how much I love gorillas in comics."

"But the purple sky was entirely the call of colorist Kevin Volo. I trust his judgement—and if it fits with Julie's advice, then we got doubly lucky!"

Rather than launching a limited series that would require readers to commit to several issues to get the entire story, Anderson decided to present *Rex, Zombie Killer* as a self-contained tale. "This is a one-shot comic, and we've worked hard to make it a satisfying story that stands alone, but the ending definitely points in a new direction; artist DaFu Yu and I—and the entire creative team, for that matter—are dying to continue telling this story, though. So, if it's well-received, our hope is to have additional issues out in the future."

"Big Dog Ink is a relatively new Indy publisher, but they've really put themselves behind this book, offering over fifty full-color pages for only \$3.50. You're getting two full-length comics for around the price of one—and we're hoping fans and retailers alike will give it a chance at that price. The story really comes from the heart, and we want as many people as possible to check it out!"

*Rex, Zombie Killer*, a \$3.50 comic from Big Dog Ink, is slated for late April release.

## Simonson Coining a New Graphic Novel in 2012

This year is shaping up to be particularly memorable for fans of comics legend Walter Simonson. A few weeks ago, we told you about his upcoming stint as artist of Marvel's *The Avengers*, where he'll be illustrating Brian Bendis's final story arc. And now DC has revealed that Simonson is both writing and illustrating an original graphic novel, *The Judas Coin*, slated for September release.

While Batman is prominently featured in the cover image, based on a featured showdown between Batman and Two-Face, DC's Alex Nagorski points out that the graphic novel featuring characters from all across the DC Universe in six interrelated stories.

"The cover for *The Judas Coin* was designed and drawn with inspiration provided in part by movie posters from the '60s and '70s," Simonson said on DC's *The Source* blog. "In particular, I was thinking of the posters of



Bob Peak, who did such beautiful work back then with montage. Peak was a master at creating a strong central image and surrounding it with smaller, often fairly loose images derived from various scenes in the movie."

"I make no claims to Peak's draftsmanship, but for a work like *The Judas*, comprised as it is of six separate but related stories, I wanted a cover that would provide both a strong visual image at its core, and a series of small drawings that would reflect the structure of the book's interior. Batman and Two-Face, eternal enemies, provided a good focal point. The vignettes around them echo the individual stories within the book."

## Pilot Season Competition a Real Beauty Contest

*The Beauty* by Jeremy Haun & Jason Hurley has been tapped as the winner of Top Cow's Pilot Season 2011 competition, chosen



through three rounds of voting by Pilot Season readers; this means that the book will graduate to series status in 2012. In the world of *The Beauty*, a new STD spreads across the world, but this is a disease you want to catch. It makes all infected people unspeakably attractive. But after the world's face-lift, two detectives discover some nasty, undesirable side effects. Will the world decide to stay

# SPIDER-MAN



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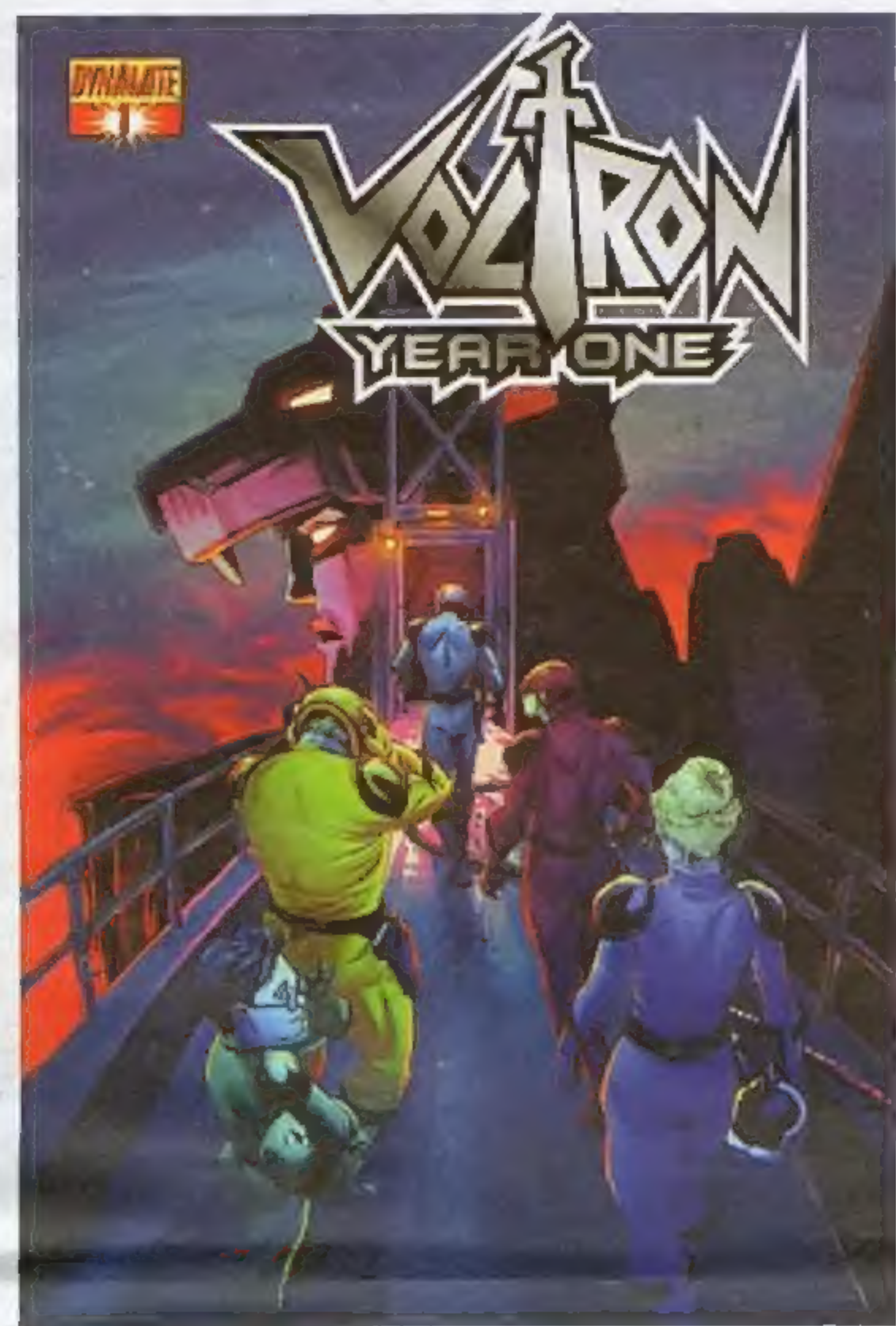
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beautiful at an unspeakable cost, or resign themselves to an ordinary-looking life?

"Now that we've won we're going to be able to finish the story. I'm really excited to do that. It's exciting to be co-writing and drawing something like this," said Haun.

"I can't wait to get back to work on the boo," Hurley added. "We've got a lot of exciting stuff planned for the future of The Beauty, and since we've won Pilot Season, we'll be able to share all of that with our fans. More than anything, I just want to send a huge thank you out to all of our family, friends, and fans for their support throughout the entire voting process. It's thanks to them that we're able to continue The Beauty."

If you want to check out all eight of 2011's Pilot Season entries, they'll be available in the *Pilot Season 2012 TP*, in stores in March. Look for the first issue of *The Beauty* in mid-2012.



## Voltron Gets a Little Less Current in Year One

Dynamite Entertainment has found an eager audience for their new *Voltron* series, presenting a contemporary, updated version of the *Voltron* concept. But fans who miss the original will be happy to learn that Dynamite is heading back into *Voltron* history this spring with *Voltron: Year One* by Brandon Thomas & Craig Cernak.

Before they were known as the legendary Voltron Force, they were Space Explorer Squadron #686 of the Galaxy Alliance—four young men, led by Commander Sven, tasked with keeping the Earth safe and the skies clear in an increasingly dangerous universe. They were the ones first approached by central command with an impossible rescue mission and asked them to face an enemy even they didn't truly understand—one that threatens the fragile coalition of planets they've risked their lives to maintain.

"Finally, one of the greatest (though misunderstood) characters in the entire *Voltron* mythos gets a chance in the spotlight, as we dig into his time leading Space Explorer Squadron #686, soon to be known as the legendary Voltron Force," says writer Brandon Thomas. "In the fateful missions leading up to the rediscovery of Voltron, any and all burning questions will be answered—what's the real reason Sven's tenure piloting the Blue Lion was always destined to be a short one? What event ensured that Keith and Lance would forever be rivals? Why has Pidge always been the most dangerous member of the team? And the biggest burning question of all—did the Galaxy Alliance send this particular squad of space explorers after Voltron because they thought they would succeed or because they knew they would fail?"

"Brandon is taking everything you thought you knew about the Voltron Force and turning it end over end in the most exciting way possible," Dynamite Editor Joe Rybandt added. "He's getting inside the head of these characters and showing

each and every one as you've never seen them before."

*Voltron: Year One #1*, by Brandon Thomas, Craig Cernak, and cover artists Admira Wijaya and Jonathan Lau, is slated for April release.



## CSNsider

•A couple of weeks ago, CSN told you that Rob Liefeld would assume the writing honors for a trio of DC projects—and now we can tell you who'll be joining him on those projects. *Grifter* will be scripted by Frank Tieri, with art by Scott Clark. will remain the ongoing series artist. *The Savage Hawkman* will be scripted by Mark Poulton, with art by Joe Bennett. *Deathstroke*, however, will be all Rob Liefeld, both story and art, as Liefeld kicks things off with a battle royale between the mercenary against intergalactic bounty hunter Lobo.

•After the three-part *Challengers of the Unknown* tale wraps in *DC Universe Presents #8*, James Robinson & Bernard Chang will present a classic villain and a new heroine beginning in *DC Universe Presents #9*. The new story arc introduces the nation's best FBI profiler, Kass Sage, must reach out to her father for help in solving a desperate case. The twist? Her father is the imprisoned serial killer, Vandal Savage!

•Marcus To will take over the art honors beginning with May's *Batwing #9*, joining writer Judd Winick for a tale that pits Batwing against the Court of Owls.

•Novelist Gregg Hurwitz, already familiar to comics readers for his outstanding work on the *Penguin: Pain*



and *Prejudice* miniseries, will be taking over as writer for *Batman: The Dark Knight* beginning with the tenth issue, joining artist David Finch. "This is the job I've been waiting to get since I was eight years old," Hurwitz said on DC's blog *The Source*. "I'm thrilled to be tackling one of the world's greatest characters with one of the industry's greatest artists. Finch and I are very fired up to take the Batman into dark and dangerous new terrain, presenting a story that'll be epic and sweeping and just a little bit twisted. We're gonna see a cornerstone villain from a whole new angle, too. I've always been fascinated by Jonathan Crane—not just what makes him tick, but what could have happened in his past to make him obsessed with fear at the expense of all else... We're used to Batman teaching his villains a lesson, but this time the Scarecrow might have something to teach Batman, too..."



•What's *Spider-Men*? Good question—and it's one that Marvel isn't answering quite yet. They are, however, releasing an intriguing teaser for the June storyline. Is it Spider-Man and Scarlet Spider? A Marvel-Ultimate Marvel crossover? A callback to Spider Island? We'll find out soon enough!

•Orders for *Astro City: Shining Stars TP* have been cancelled; the title will be resolicited at a later date.

•A few artist changes at Marvel: *FF #15* will now feature art by Nick Dragotta, replacing Juan Bobillo; *Mighty Thor #12* will feature art by Giuseppe Camuncoli, replacing Pasqual Ferry; *Mighty Thor #12.1* will feature art by Barry Kitson, replacing Pepe Larraz; *Punisher #9* will feature art by Mirko Colak, replacing Marco Checchetto; and *Avengers Solo #5* will feature art by Roger Robinson & Karl Kesel (Kesel is replacing Clayton Henry).

•Neil Gaiman and Todd McFarlane have settled their lengthy legal battle over *Spawn* and *Angela*, a character that Gaiman created in *Spawn #9*. While the full terms of the agreement remain undisclosed, it is known that Gaiman is now recognized as half-owner of the copyrights to *Spawn* #s 9 &

26 and *Angela* #s 1-3. Will this pave the way for the release of *Miracleman* collections at last (and perhaps new *Miracleman* material from Gaiman as well), since the rights to that series were caught up in the legal quagmire? Let's hope so!



•This July, Dark Horse will collect the first year of Mike Norton's *Battlepug* webcomic in trade paperback. *Battlepug* stars an intrepid barbarian warrior and his trusty steed, an oversized pug.

•Rob Liefeld has revealed that *The Infinite*, the time travel adventure series that he and Robert Kirkman launched at Image in 2011, has come to an end. "Creative differences are the doom of every creative endeavor," Liefeld said on Twitter. "Unfortunately, creative differences have sunk *The Infinite*. It's over." Liefeld had enlisted a new inker for the series, but apparently Kirkman preferred the more pure Liefeld look; that led to a decision to end the series. According to Liefeld, #s 5 & 6 will not see release, leaving readers with only the first four issues of this compelling time-spanning saga.

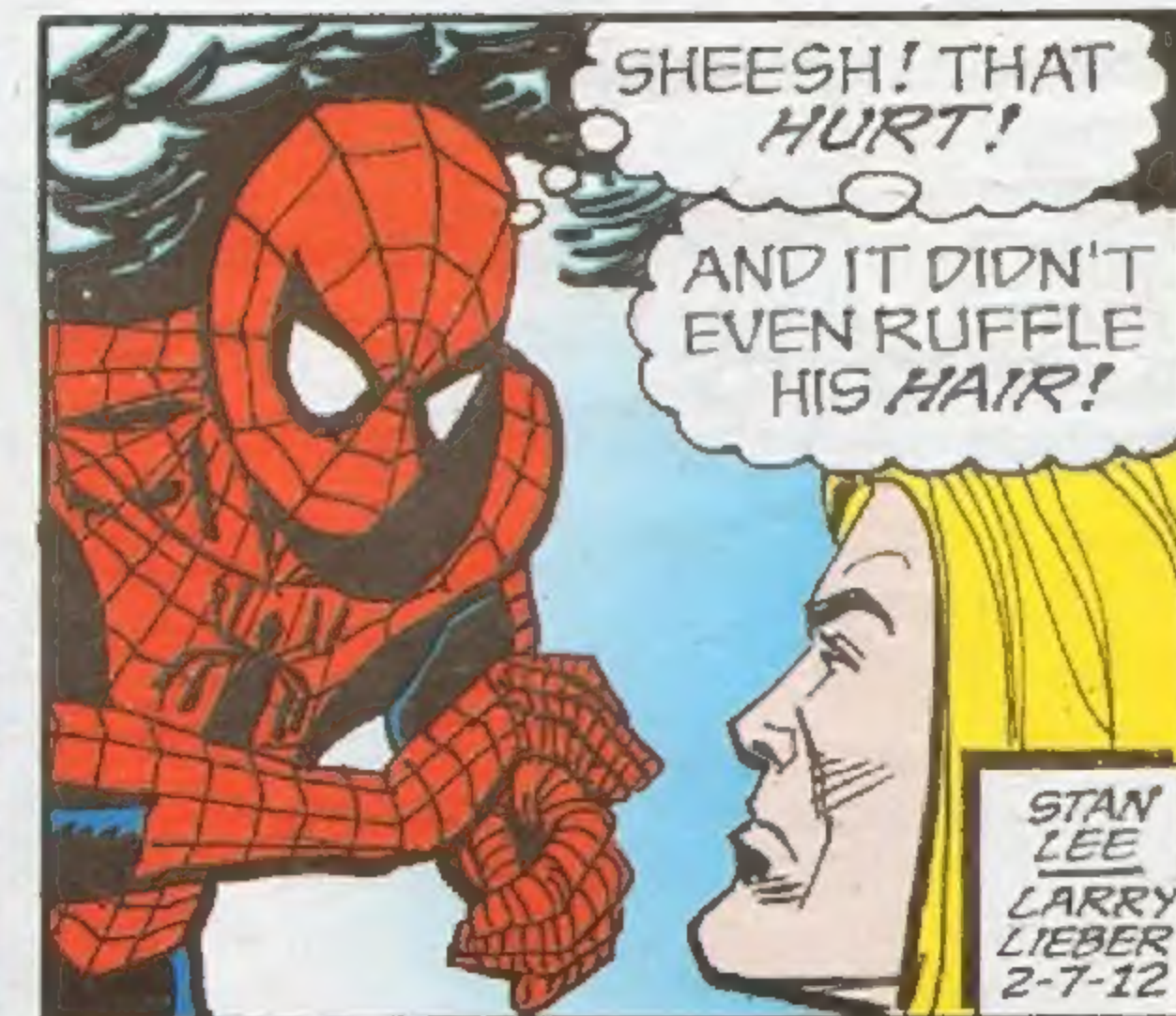
## Back to Press

•*Fatale #1 3rd Printing* (NOV118214), in stores this week.

•*Fatale #2 2nd Printing* (NOV118215), in stores this week.

•*Justice League #4 2nd Printing* (DEC118159), featuring a recolored version of the original cover, in stores 2/29.

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## ACTION COMICS #7

Grant Morrison (W);  
Rags Morales & Rick Bryant  
(DC JAN120228 \$3.99)

### What's the Scoop?

If Superman is going to save Metropolis, he's going to have to push his powers to limits he never before dreamed of.

### Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison & Rags Morales reveal how Superman became Earth's pre-eminent hero. This is ground zero for the launch of DC's New 52 Universe—everything else grows out of this historic storyline!



## AGE OF APOCALYPSE #1

David Lapham (W); Roberto De La Torre (A)  
(Marvel JAN120690 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

The Amazing X-Men have lost... and that means that the Evil Weapon X is more powerful than ever! Welcome to the Age of Apocalypse!

### Why Should You Care?

If you loved the story in the pages of *Uncanny X-Force*—and sales prove that lots of you did—then you'll want to see where the story goes next!

## AQUAMAN #7

Geoff Johns (W); Ivan Reis & Joe Prado (A)  
(DC JAN120215 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

Who's the mysterious hunter who keeps the weapons and armor of his victims as trophies? And what does he want with Aquaman's trident? Most of all, what does that mean for Aquaman?

### Why Should You Care?

Now that Geoff Johns has re-established Aquaman as one of DC's A-list heroes, it's time to expand on his Atlantean heritage... and that includes the facts behind Atlantis's destruction!

## AVENGERS ASSEMBLE #1

Brian Bendis (W);  
Mark Bagley & Danny Miki (A)  
(Marvel JAN120638 \$3.99)

### What's the Scoop?

The core Avengers—including Captain America, Iron Man, Thor, Hawkeye, Black Widow, and the Hulk—unite to face the menace of the all-new Zodiac.

### Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis & Mark Bagley—the same duo who set records on the mega-hit *Ultimate Spider-Man*—bring their creative magic to play on this all-star superteam book. Dream team, dream lineup... who can ask for more?

## AVENGERS VS X-MEN #0 (OF 12)

Brian Bendis & Jason Aaron (W);  
Frank Cho (A)  
(Marvel JAN120622 \$3.99)

### What's the Scoop?

What does the return of the Scarlet Witch mean for the mutant messiah Hope? And with a conflict between the two supergroups looming on the horizon, what happens to heroes like Wolverine who play on both teams?

### Why Should You Care?

Marvel's biggest franchises face off against each other in the maxiseries event of the year—and that means that if there's one Marvel book you should be reading, this is it!

## BATGIRL #7

Gail Simone (A);  
Arrian Syaf & Vicente Cifuentes (A)  
(DC JAN120249 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

Batgirl faces the demons of her past—and her struggle reveals new details of her traumatic near-death at the hands of the Joker.

### Why Should You Care?

Gail Simone, who has made *Batgirl* one of the most compelling books in the Bat-family, takes on the "elephant in the room" regarding Barbara's past—and that makes this one a "must-read" for anyone who's ever wondered



# CSN TOP COM

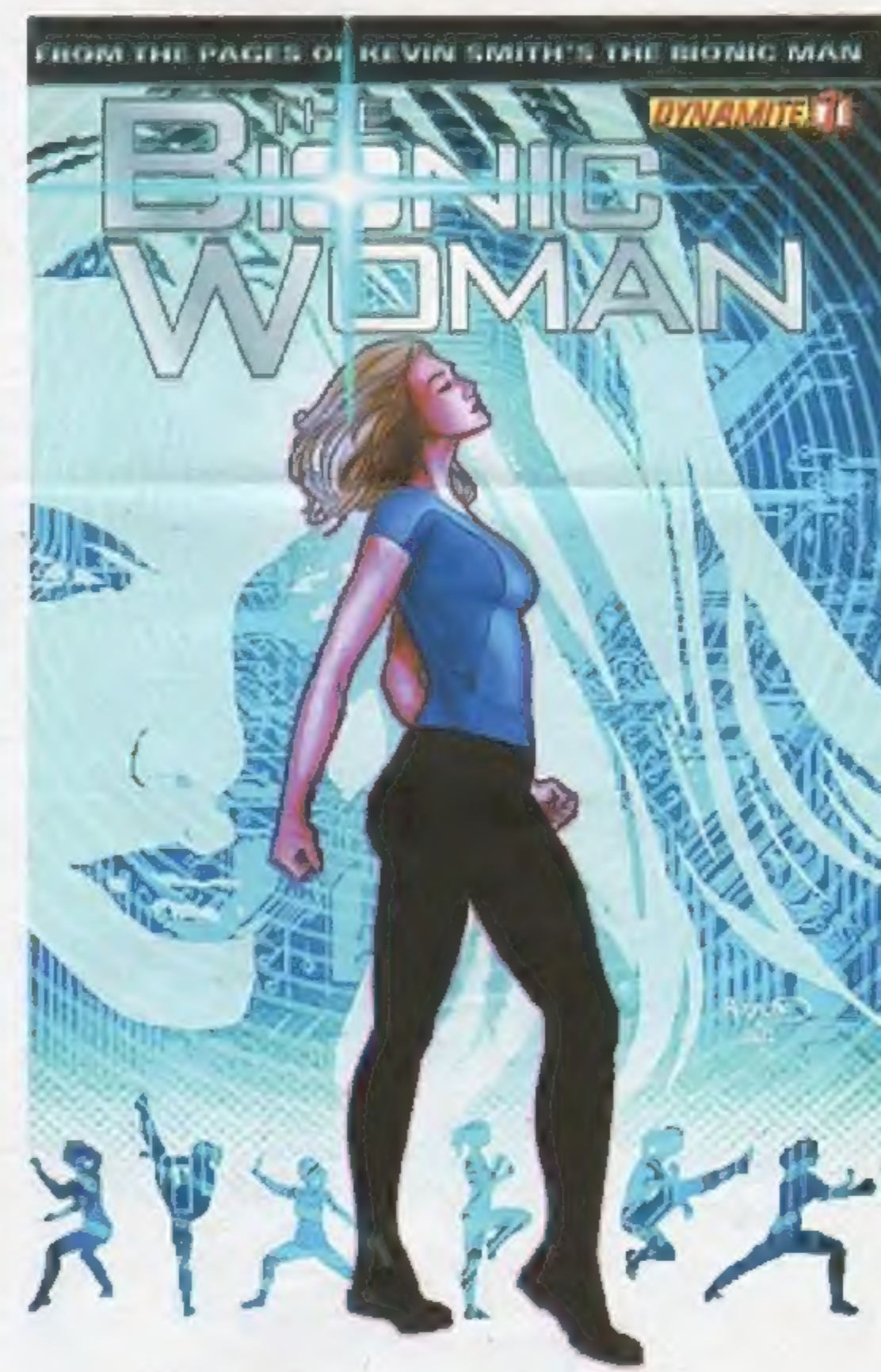
exactly how the events of *The Killing Joke* could dovetail with DC's New 52.

## BIONIC WOMAN #1

Paul Tobin (W); Leno Carvalho (A)  
(Dynamite JAN121011 \$3.99)

### What's the Scoop?

Jaime Sommers tracks down an elite group of surgeons who are murdering OSI bionic prototypes in order to provide new life for billionaire patients. And of course, the Bionic Woman has more than a little at stake in the outcome of this case... particularly when their hunter begins hunting her at the same time she's hunting his employers!



### Why Should You Care?

The other half of the 70s Bionic franchise is back in this updated series—and Paul Tobin promises that there will be links between *Bionic Man* and *Bionic Woman*, which will make *Bionic* fans very happy!



## DOMINIQUE LAVEAU, VODOO CHILD #1

Selwyn Sefu Hinds (A);  
Denys Cowan & John Floyd (A)  
(Vertigo/DC JAN120334 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

A grad student becomes the leading suspect in the murder of New Orleans' Voodoo Queen and most of her court. In order to survive, she'll have to form some unlikely alliances... and along the way, she'll learn the truth about her own life and the destiny that awaits her.

### Why Should You Care?

It may not be a New 52, but Vertigo celebrates its own renaissance this month with four high-profile titles that capture the energy and tone of Vertigo at its prime—and when you consider that its prime includes *Sandman*, *Swamp Thing*, *Preacher*, *Lucifer*, and *Fables*, among other titles, that's pretty impressive!



# COMICS: MARCH



## FAIREST #1

**Bill Willingham (W); Phil Jimenez & Andy Lanning (A)**  
(Vertigo/DC JAN120327 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

What happened to Briar Rose after she was stolen away by the goblin army in *Fables* #107? Find out here!

### Why Should You Care?

Bill Willingham and fan-favorite artist Phil Jimenez kick off this series that the female *Fables* their moment in the spotlight in this series that features a rotating cast of characters—and creators—in each story arc. Look for upcoming tales focusing on Sleeping Beauty, Rapunzel, Cinderella, the Snow Queen, Snow White, and others, presented by such creators as Lauren Beukes, Inaki Miranda, Chris Roberson, & Shawn McManus.

## GREEN LANTERN #7

**Geoff Johns (W); Doug Mahnke, & Christian Alamy (A)**  
(DC JAN120253 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

The GL team of Hal Jordan and Sinestro must investigate a crime that leads them to the Indigo homeworld in deep space. And what they find there will not only shock them, but also change the way you look at Lantern lore!

### Why Should You Care?

There's not much difference between *Green Lantern* pre-New-52 and post-New-52—it's still one of DC's finest monthlies, produced by all-star talent who genuinely like Hal Jordan... and it shows in every issue!

## HELL, YEAH! #1

**Joe Keatinge (W); Andre Szymanowicz (A)**  
(Image JAN120501 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

Twenty years ago, the first-ever superheroes debuted without warning, forever altering global culture... and changing the lives of all who crossed paths with them! Now, the generation born in their wake fight for their own place in a post-superhero world.

### Why Should You Care?

The recently relaunched *Glory* and *Hell, Yeah!* establish Joe Keatinge as one of the leading lights of the new revisionist superhero movement—and most definitely a talent to watch!

## JUSTICE LEAGUE #7

**Geoff Johns (W); Gene Ha (A)**  
(DC JAN120210 \$3.99)

### What's the Scoop?

Now that the team's origin story is complete, starting with this issue we shift to the present-day Justice League! What has changed? And who has joined the team since their initial adventure? And as added bonus, this issue kicks off the eagerly-awaited New-52 debut of Billy Batson in "The Curse of Shazam!"



### Why Should You Care?

Jim Lee may be taking a couple of issues off before launching his next arc, but Geoff Johns is in plenty good company, with both Gene Ha and Gary Frank supplying the arc for this issue's two stories. With a team like that, you can be sure that *Justice League* is going to keep a firm grip on its position at the top of the sales charts!

## NEW DEAD-WARDIANS #1 (OF 8)

**Dan Abnett (W); I.N.J. Culbard (A)**  
(Vertigo/DC JAN120332 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

In post-Victorian England, nearly everyone of the upper classes has voluntarily become a vampire to escape the lower classes—who are all zombies. So you can imagine the problems this creates for a chief inspector who's stuck with investigating murders in a world where everyone is already dead... When the body of a young aristocrat washes up on the banks of the Thames, Chief Inspector Suttle's investigation will lead him to the rotten heart at the center of this strange new world.

### Why Should You Care?

It's a vampire story for readers who don't like vampires. It's a zombie story for readers who are bored with zombies. It's two—two—two iconoclastic concepts in one great murder mystery!



## NIGHT FORCE #1 (OF 6)

**Marv Wolfman (W); Tom Mandrake (A)**  
(DC JAN120291 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

When a cop uncovers a mysterious conspiracy that dates back hundreds of years, it's no surprise that Baron Winters when his elite supernatural investigative team enter the picture...

### Why Should You Care?

The original *Night Force*, with its stunning art by Gene Colan, stood alongside Marv Wolfman's *Tomb of Dracula* as one of comics' moody suspense masterpieces. Alas, Colan is no longer here to illustrate the relaunch, but Tom Mandrake does an outstanding job of filling in for him in this long-overdue relaunch.



## SAGA #1

**Brian K. Vaughan (W); Fiona Staples (A)**  
(Image JAN120485 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

New parents Marko and Alana risk everything to raise their child amidst a never-ending galactic war in this ongoing epic that blends *Star Wars* style larger-than-life action and *Game of Thrones* fantasy-driven drama.

### Why Should You Care?

Maybe you remember that last thought-provoking SF tale that Brian Vaughan gave us... you know, that Y—*The Last Man* thing? Considering the impact that book had, how can you resist his latest ongoing series?

## SAUCER COUNTRY #1

**Paul Cornell (W); Ryan Kelly (A)**  
(Vertigo/DC JAN120325 \$2.99)

### What's the Scoop?

When the leading Democratic candidate for President has a close encounter with a UFO, it changes her life. Now she's more driven than ever to win the Presidency... to expose the truth... and to save the world.

### Why Should You Care?

Alien abduction, government conspiracies, and political intrigue, all mixed into one compelling package by writer Paul Cornell... no doubt about it, Vertigo's back!





### **SUPERCROOKS #1**

**Mark Millar (W); Leinil Francis Yu (A)**  
(Marvel/Icon JAN120714 \$3.99)

#### **What's the Scoop?**

When you have to struggle with too many competing supervillains, too-eager authorities who want to lock you away, and too high a public profile, what do you? Relocate to Spain, of course!

#### **Why Should You Care?**

Mark Millar offers an inspired answer to the question, "who don't supervillains who keep getting caught just go somewhere else where there's no one to catch them?"



### **SUPERMAN #7**

**Keith Giffen & Dan Jurgens (W); Dan Jurgens (A)**  
(DC JAN120232 \$2.99)

#### **What's the Scoop?**

The good news? Superman gets some new friends... and potentially new love interests! The bad news? He also gets a very wicked new adversary, Helspont, who has a disturbing connection to the Daemonites...

#### **Why Should You Care?**

The new creative team of Keith Giffen and Dan Jurgens debut with this issue. They're picking up where George Pérez left off, continuing the super-saga in an inspired new direction.

And of course, we more than welcome any opportunity to see Jurgens supplying the visuals for the Man of Steel once again.



### **Check 'Em Out: Books You Should Be Reading**

#### **ATOMIC ROBO: REAL SCIENCE ADVENTURES #1**

(Red 5 JAN121240 \$2.75)

The untold tales of Atomic Robo are untold no longer, thanks to this new limited series filled with quirky characterization and rollicking pulp-esque adventure.

#### **BEYOND THE FRINGE #1**

(DC JAN120320 \$3.99)

Fringe star Joshua Jackson (Peter Bishop) does the writing honors for this miniseries that explores key events set between seasons three and four of the show.



### **CROSSED: BADLANDS #1**

(Avatar JAN120877 \$3.99)

Garth Ennis returns to the helm of this twisted, ultraviolent series—and Avatar promises that he'll deliver the mayhem and madness on a biweekly basis!

### **DREAM QUEST OF UNKNOWN KADATH & OTHER STORIES HC**

(Mock Man JAN121178 \$24.95)

Everyone knows Lovecraft's Cthulhu Mythos tales, but Jason Thompson tackles HPL's dream tales in this stylish graphic novel.

### **FLASH #7**

(DC JAN120219 \$2.99)

Captain Cold is back - and he's trying to convince the rest of the Rogues to reunite one last time. But what tore them apart before? And what did The Flash do to earn their deadly scorn? Find out here!



### **FURY OF FIRESTORM, THE NUCLEAR MEN #7**

(DC JAN120223 \$2.99)

Joe Harris signs on as co-writer, while Ethan Van Sciver supplies the art for this issue as Ronnie Raymond pursues the Russian Nuclear Man Pozhar on what may well turn out to be a suicide mission

### **HOWARD LOVECRAFT & UNDERSEA KINGDOM GN**

(Arcana JAN120814 \$12.95)

Another HPL tale—sort of!... Dwight MacPherson & Bruce Brown present an all-ages drama starring a young Howard Lovecraft as he faces the all-powerful ruler of the Outer Gods



### **ROCKETEER ADVENTURES 2 #1 (OF 4)**

(IDW JAN120408 \$3.99)

Fans loved the first miniseries of new rocketeer tales so much that IDW is back with a second selection of new tales by top talents, all inspired by Dave Stevens' pulp-era hero. This issue features new material by Marc Guggenheim, Sandy Plunkett, Arthur Adams, Darwyn Cooke, and others.

### **STAN LEE'S MIGHTY 7 #1**

(Archie JAN120848 \$2.99)

Stan Lee as Professor Xavier? Sort of! When a crew of sinister, alien prisoners and their jailers are blasted across the galaxy, their ship lands smack dab in front of Stan, who becomes the heroes' mentor and advisor, guiding them as the struggle to protect earth from the now-freed prisoners.





### TICK #100: TICK MEETS INVINCIBLE

(NEC JAN121209 \$6.99)

The Tick meets Robert Kirkman's Invincible? How can we resist?

### Collected Cool: March's Best Reprint Editions

#### CRIME DOES NOT PAY ARCHIVES HC VOL 1

(Dark Horse NOV110052 \$49.99)

Uncut and uncensored, the infamous (and sometimes scandalous) precode *Crime Does Not Pay* series is collected into a series of archival hardcovers meticulously restored from the original issues.

#### DARK SHADOWS: BEST OF ORIGINAL SERIES TP

(Hermes DEC111106 \$49.99)

Can't afford to invest in the entire run of *Dark Shadows* archival editions? Then this is the book for you: a hefty collection of the best tales from the Gold Key run (and almost a third of those original issues are included in this extra-length volume!).

#### FLEX MENTALLO, MAN OF MUSCLE & MYSTERY DELUXE HC

(Vertigo/DC OCT110285 \$22.99)

The book you never thought you'd see in print is collected at last! Grant Morrison & Frank Quitely quirky *Doom Patrol* spinoff is here at last!

#### GREEN LANTERN CHRONICLES TP VOL 4

(DC DEC110295 \$14.99)

Collects *Green Lantern* #s 15-20 by John Broome & Gil Kane, featuring Flash, Sinestro, Sonar, and others.

#### SAVAGE DRAGON ULTIMATE COLLECTION HC VOL 1)

(Image JAN120529 \$34.99)

This hefty (and affordable) hardcover collects Erik Larsen's five-issue miniseries and *Savage Dragon* #s 1-7 in full color.

Comic Shop News

### SHOWCASE PRESENTS THE SPECTRE TP VOL 1

(DC OCT110255 \$19.99)

DC's first Silver Age metaphysically-cosmic hero gets his long-overdue collection. This 500+ page compendium includes *Showcase* #s 60, 61, & 64, *Spectre* #s 1-10, *Adventure* #s 431-440, and much more, featuring material by Murphy Anderson, Jerry Grandenetti, Neal Adams, Jim Aparo, and others.

### SHOWCASE PRESENTS YOUNG LOVE TP VOL 1



(DC NOV110201 \$19.99)

February's the month for romance—so here's DC's first-ever collection of classic romance tales from *Young Love* #39-56, featuring art by John Romita, Mike Sekowsky, Don Heck, Gene Colan, Jay Scott Pike, and others.

### UNTOLD TALES OF SPIDER-MAN OMNIBUS HC

(Marvel OCT110699 \$99.99)

This hefty hardcover collects Kurt Busiek's *Amazing Fantasy* #s 16-18, *Untold Tales of Spider-Man* #s 1-25, and more, featuring tales that fit into—and expand on—early Spidey continuity.



Follow Spider-Man every week in Comic Shop News!

### FYI: Must-Have Additions to Your Reference Library

#### LEAPING TALL BUILDINGS HC

(Powerhouse DEC111299 \$35.00)

Christopher Irving & Seth Kushner spotlight the creators of some of comics' most respected creators, including Joe Simon, Neal Adams, Chris Claremont, Frank Miller, Scott McCloud, Alex Ross, Jill Thompson, Al Jaffee, Harvey Pekar, Art Spiegelman, and Chris Ware.

#### LYNDA BARRY: GIRLHOOD THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS SC

(University Press of Mississippi JAN121378 \$25.00)

Susan E. Kirtley examines Lynda Barry's career, from her cutting-edge comics work to her illustrated fiction to her plays, paintings, and more.



#### WALKING DEAD: THE CUTTING ROOM FLOOR HC

(Image JAN120552 \$19.99)

See what plot lines were left on the cutting-room floor and get an in-depth look at how the series came together in this collection of Robert Kirkman's original, hand-written plot lines for the early issues of the Eisner-award winning series.



### Hot Commodities: March's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

#### DEADPOOL STATUE

(Gentle Giant JUL111885 \$369.00)

Ultra-detailed Gentle Giant sculpt inspired by the cover of *Deadpool* #68.

#### GREEN LANTERN ANIMATED SERIES HAL JORDAN MAQUETTE

(DC Direct AUG110308 \$125.00)

Straight from the TV screen to your display shelf! This striking maquette captures the look of the *Green Lantern* series slated to premiere on the Cartoon Network this spring as part of their DC Nation block.



#### GREEN LANTERN: HAL JORDAN VS PARALLAX STATUE

(DC Direct DEC110336 \$295.00)

The Emerald Knight Battles the Embodiment of Fear! in this striking sculpture capturing one of the most memorable confrontations in DC history.

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# BATMAN

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